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FOR: THERAPEUTIC AND DIAGNOSTIC METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS BASED ON NOTCH PROTEINS AND NUCLEIC ACIDS

Pursuant to your request, transmitted herewith are pages 17-20 as filed of Application Serial No. 08/346,128, which is a FWC of Application Serial No. 07/879,038.

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site at the 5' end, and proceeding in the 5' to 3' direction. Figure 21B: The DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:21) of a portion of the human Notch insert is shown, starting near the 3' end, and proceeding in the 3' to 5' direction. The sequences shown are tentative, subject to confirmation by determination of overlapping sequences.

Figure 22. Nucleotide Sequences of Human Notch Contained in Plasmid cDNA Clone hN5k. Figure 22A: The DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:22) of a portion of the human Notch insert is shown, starting at the EcoRI site at the 5' end, and proceeding in the 5' to 3' direction. Figure 22B: The DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:23) of a portion of the human Notch insert is shown, starting near the 3' end, and proceeding in the 3' to 5' direction. Figure 22C: The DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:24) of a portion of the human Notch insert is shown, starting 3' of the sequence shown in Figure 22A, and proceeding in the 5' to 3' direction. Figure 22D: The DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:25) of a portion of the human Notch insert is shown, starting 5' of the sequence shown in Figure 22B, and proceeding in the 3' to 5' direction. The sequences shown are tentative, subject to confirmation by determination of overlapping sequences.

Figure 23. DNA (SEQ ID NO:31) and Amino Acid (SEQ ID NO:34) Sequences of Human Notch Contained in Plasmid cDNA Clone hN3k.

Figure 24. DNA (SEQ ID NO:33) and Amino Acid (SEQ ID NO:34) Sequences of Human Notch Contained in Plasmid cDNA Clone hN5k.

Figure 25. Comparison of hN5k With Other Notch Homologs. Figure 25A. Schematic representation of Drosophila Notch. Indicated are the signal sequence (signal), the 36 EGF-like repeats, the three

Notch/lin-12 repeats, the transmembrane domain (TM), the six CDC10 repeats, the OPA repeat, and the PEST (proline, glutamic acid, serine, threonine)-rich region. Figure 25B. Alignment of the deduced amino acid sequence of hN5k with sequences of other Notch homologs. Amino acids are numbered on the left side. The cdc10 and PEST-rich regions are both boxed, and individual cdc10 repeats are marked. Amino acids which are identical in three or more sequences are highlighted. The primers used to clone hN5k are indicated below the sequences from which they were designed. The nuclear localization sequence (NLS), casein kinase II (CKII), and cdc2 kinase (cdc2) sites of the putative CcN motif of the vertebrate Notch homologs are boxed. The possible bipartite nuclear targeting sequence (BNTS) and proximal phosphorylation sites of Drosophila Notch are also boxed.

5. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to nucleotide sequences of the human Notch and Delta genes, and amino acid sequences of their encoded proteins. The invention further relates to fragments (termed herein "adhesive fragments") of the proteins encoded by toporythmic genes which mediate homotypic or heterotypic binding to toporythmic proteins or adhesive fragments thereof. Toporythmic genes, as used herein, shall mean the genes Notch, Delta, and Serrate, as well as other members of the Delta/Serrate family which may be identified, e.g. by the methods described in Section 5.3, infra.

The nucleic acid and amino acid sequences and antibodies thereto of the invention can be used for the detection and quantitation of mRNA for human Notch and Delta and adhesive molecules, to study

expression thereof, to produce human Notch and Delta and adhesive sequences, in the study and manipulation of differentiation processes.

For clarity of disclosure, and not by way of limitation, the detailed description of the invention will be divided into the following sub-sections:

(i) Identification of and the sequences of toporythmic protein domains that mediate binding to toporythmic protein domains;

(ii) The cloning and sequencing of human Notch and Delta;

(iii) Identification of additional members of the Delta/Serrate family;

(iv) The expression of toporythmic genes;

(v) Identification and purification of the expressed gene product; and

(vi) Generation of antibodies to toporythmic proteins and adhesive sequences thereof.

5.1. IDENTIFICATION OF AND THE SEQUENCES OF TOPORYTHMIC PROTEIN DOMAINS THAT MEDIATE BINDING TO TOPORYTHMIC PROTEIN DOMAINS

The invention provides for toporythmic protein fragments, and analogs or derivatives thereof, which mediate homotypic or heterotypic binding (and thus are termed herein "adhesive"), and nucleic acid sequences relating to the foregoing.

In a specific embodiment, the adhesive fragment of Notch is that comprising the portion of Notch most homologous to ELR 11 and 12, i.e., amino acid numbers 447 through 527 (SEQ ID NO:1) of the Drosophila Notch sequence (see Figure 8). In another specific embodiment, the adhesive fragment of Delta mediating homotypic binding is that comprising the

portion of Delta most homologous to about amino acid numbers 32-230 of the Drosophila Delta sequence (SEQ ID NO:6). In yet another specific embodiment, the adhesive fragment of Delta mediating binding to Notch is that comprising the portion of Delta most homologous to about amino acid numbers 1-230 of the Drosophila Delta sequence (SEQ ID NO:6). In a specific embodiment relating to an adhesive fragment of Serrate, such fragment is that comprising the portion of Serrate most homologous to about amino acid numbers 85-283 or 79-282 of the Drosophila Serrate sequence (see Figure 10 (SEQ ID NO:4), and Figure 15 (SEQ ID NO:9)).

The nucleic acid sequences encoding toporythmic adhesive domains can be isolated from porcine, bovine, feline, avian, equine, or canine, as well as primate sources and any other species in which homologs of known toporythmic genes [including but not limited to the following genes (with the publication of sequences in parentheses): Notch (Wharton et al., 1985, Cell 43, 567-581), Delta (Vassin et al., 1987, EMBO J. 6, 3431-3440; Kopczynski et al., 1988, Genes Dev. 2, 1723-1735; note corrections to the Kopczynski et al. sequence found in Figure 13 hereof (SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6)) and Serrate (Fleming et al., 1990, Genes & Dev. 4, 2188-2201)] can be identified. Such sequences can be altered by substitutions, additions or deletions that provide for functionally equivalent (adhesive) molecules. Due to the degeneracy of nucleotide coding sequences, other DNA sequences which encode substantially the same amino acid sequence as the adhesive sequences may be used in the practice of the present invention. These include but are not limited to nucleotide sequences comprising all or portions of the Notch, Delta, or Serrate genes which